

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH006
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	Glen Abhainn, Enfield, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	A83 WF74
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	47	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham, D Duffy
Title:	Early Years Inspector and Inspection Registration Manager

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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Description of service

The service provides full day care, part time and sessional care and education to pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years and school aged care to children up to 12 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is a purpose-built childcare facility consisting of two separate buildings located on the same site. Building 1 caters for children attending for full day care and Building 2 caters for children attending a sessional service staying on for full day care during term time and provides a school aged service.

Building 1 consists of five care rooms namely Discoverers room 1, Discoverers room 2, Discoverers room 3, and Explorers room 1 and Explorers room 2. **Building 2** consists of six care rooms for pre-school children, namely Active Cubs 1, Active Cubs 2, Active Cubs 3, Active Cubs 4, Active Cubs 5 and Active Cubs 6. Three additional rooms are available the opposite end of the building used exclusively for school aged children. Additional facilities in the service include a kitchen, dining area, sanitary facilities (nappy changing areas), sleep rooms and outdoor play areas in each building with adequate parking available to the front of the pre-school. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of both buildings.

Staffing

There are twenty-six adults employed in the service including a manager, assistant manager, 21 childcare practitioners for preschool children (2 of whom are on long term statutory leave), 2 staff who care for school aged children only and a staff member who works in the kitchen. Additionally, following commencement of the inspection the quality support manager arrived at the service at 11.05am and stayed for the remainder of the inspection.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation

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- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 9(2) Management and Recruitment.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, assistant manager, quality support manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection. Also, the registered provider, services operations manager and the quality and practice manager who joined remotely for feedback.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

Following discussion with the manager and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that 5 new staff members were employed since the last inspection on the 21st April 2026. The new staff members files were reviewed. The remaining staff files met compliance at the last inspection.

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- (2) (a)&(b) Ten validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures have been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (3) All vetting procedures were carried out prior to a person been employed in the service.
- (4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of staff available to work directly with the children on the day of the inspection. In order to maintain the adult:child ratio prescribed by the regulations, the service was required to close rooms and amalgamate rooms due to staffing shortages. It was noted that on the day of inspection that two of the five care rooms in building 1 were closed. In building 2, three of the six care rooms were closed, (two of which are closed for the summer months term time).
- (2) The following adult to child ratios were observed on the days of inspection:

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Building 1

Discoverers Room 1: Closed on the day of inspection.

Discoverers Room 2: there was 1 staff member caring for 4 children ranging in age from 1 year to 2 years attending the service on a full day care basis.

Discovers Room 3: Closed on the day of inspection.

Explorers Room 1 there were 1 staff member caring for 7 children ranging in age from 1 year 6 months to 2 years. All children attending the service on a full day care basis.

Explorers Room 2: there was 2 staff members caring for 12 children ranging in age from 2 years to 2 years 8 months. All children attending the service on a full day care basis.

Building 2.

Active Cubs 1 Closed term time room only

Active Cubs 2: there was 1 staff member caring for 8 children ranging in age from 3 to 4 years, 6 children attending the service on a full day care basis with 2 children attending the sessional service.

Active Cubs 3: there was 1 staff member caring for 8 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years, 6 children attending the service on a full day care basis with 2 children attending the sessional service.

Active Cubs 4 there was 1 staff member caring for 8 children ranging in age from 4 to 5 years, all children attending the service on a full day care basis.

Active Cubs 5: Closed on the day of inspection.

Active Cubs 6: Closed on the day of inspection, term time room only

School Aged Room: there was 1 staff member caring for 12 school aged children ranging in age from 5 years to 10 years attending full day care.

Additionally, the manager, assistant manager and a floating staff member was available to the care rooms when required.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were always two adults on the premises when the service was in operation, as evidenced in the staff roster maintained in the service.